

### **REMARKS**

Claims 22 - 24 have been amended (and these amendments are not made in view of the cited art). No new matter is introduced by these amendments, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 12, 14 - 20, 22 - 24, and 26 remain in the application.

Paragraphs 2 - 3 of the Office Action dated May 18, 2006 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") discuss problems with Applicants' previously-submitted Declaration of Fact Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131. A replacement Declaration of Fact Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 is submitted herewith, and Applicants respectfully submit that this replacement Declaration overcomes the problems discussed in the Office Action.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 12, 14 - 20, 22 - 24, and 26 (which comprise all claims currently presented in the application) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (U.S. 5,325,310) and further in view of Kasajima (U. S. 2002/0178224).

In response, Applicants submit herewith the enclosed Declaration of Fact Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 from all of the named inventors. This Declaration demonstrates that the claimed invention was conceived prior to May 23, 2001, the priority date of Kasajima, and was diligently reduced to constructive practice by the filing of the present application on July 20, 2001.

The Office Action admits (in Paragraph 5, lines 13 - 16) that Johnson does not teach all limitations of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 18, and 22. With regard to Applicants' other independent Claims 7, 20, and 24, the Office Action cites teachings from Kasajima (see Office Action, Page 5, lines 13 - 24). Applicants submit that the Declaration overcomes the §103 rejections based on Kasajima pursuant to MPEP 715.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is allowable over the art of record, and request that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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